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STATE OF MAINE

Citizen Trade Policy Commission

March 23, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk
Trade Ambassador
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The Maine Citizen Trade Policy Commission "... is established to assess and monitor the legal and economic impacts of trade agreements on state and local laws, working conditions and the business environment; to provide a mechanism for citizens and Legislators to voice their concerns and recommendations; and to make policy recommendations designed to protect Maine's jobs, business environment and laws from any negative impact of trade agreements."

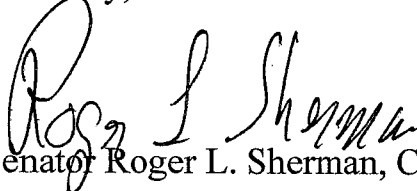
We recently sent you a letter on March 6, 2012 stating our concerns about the manner in which international trade treaties are currently negotiated and the overall need for greater transparency and meaningful congressional consultation and review. Since that time, the Commission met on March 9, 2102 and unanimously voted to send you this additional letter of concern.


The Commission strongly supports the recently stated position of the Australian government in opposition to inclusion of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) clauses in the TPPA. As you know, ISDS clauses give businesses from one country the power to take international legal action against the government of another country over breaches in an international trade treaty. The practical effect of ISDS clauses is the possible abrogation of federal, state and municipal law due to certain interpretations of foreign trade treaties like the TPPA. The Commission believes that, regardless of the particular national perspective in question, that the

use of ISDS clauses undermines federal, state and municipal sovereignty and should not be included in international trade treaties like the TPPA.

Please contact us with any questions that you may have regarding the Commission's position on these issues.

Sincerely,


Senator Roger L. Sherman, Chair


Representative Joyce Maker, Chair

Cc: Governor Paul R. Lepage
Senator Olympia J. Snowe
Senator Susan M. Collins
Representative Michael H. Michaud
Representative Chellie Pingree
State Representative Sharon Treat